AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of collecting and storing information about the programs installed on and the services provided by a computer for subsequent retrieval, comprising:

(a) extracting from the computer system information ~~about an application or a service on a computer, the information including a plurality of attributes regarding the application or service~~ including, but not limited to, information about the computer operating system, hardware, and processor and storing the system information in a log file;

(b) extracting from the computer executables information including, but not limited to, information about executables included in a defined set of folders stored on the computer and executables associated with services provided by the computer and storing the executables information in the log file, the executables information including attributes determined by the executables;

(c) extracting from the computer information regarding the application programs installed on the computer including linked executables and storing the application program information in the log file, the application program information including attributes determined by the application programs including the linked executables; and

(d) deriving a signature for each of the executables based on a subset of the attributes ~~for the application or service determined by the~~ associated with the executable and storing the resultant signatures in the log file.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the ~~signature~~ signatures in an XML file associated with the ~~application or service~~ executables.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

3. (Currently amended) The method claim 1, further comprising storing the information in an XML file associated with the ~~application or service~~ executables.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising storing the signature in the XML file.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein extracting the application program information comprises accessing an installer component of the computer.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the application program information is stored in connection with the installer component.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein extracting the application program information comprises accessing more than one information source ~~for the information~~.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising choosing a best source of the more than one information source ~~sources for the information,~~ and utilizing that best source to provide at least some of the application program information.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising storing information about the sources other than the best source with the application program information.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein deriving a signature comprises generating a number from the subset utilizing a cyclic redundancy check.

11. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

a first data field representing information about an application or service on a computer, the information including a plurality of attributes regarding the application; [[and]]

a second data field representing a signature derived from a subset of the attributes of the application or service; and

a third data field representing a second signature for a second subset of the attributes of the application or service.

12. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the subset of attributes represents information regarding a version of the application or service.

13. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the signature comprises a number generated utilizing a cyclic redundancy check.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim [[14]] 11, wherein the second subset of attributes represents information regarding a version of the application or service.

16. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim [[14]] 11, wherein the data structure comprises the first data field, the second data field, and the third data field for a plurality of applications and/or services.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the data structure is stored in an XML file.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

19. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first data field is stored in an XML file.

20. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the second data field is stored in an XML file.

21. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of collecting and storing information about the applications installed on and the services provided by a computer for subsequent retrieval, comprising:

enumerating executables associated with ~~an application or service~~ each application installed on and each service provided by the computer that has an associated executable;

for each executable, extracting information about the executable, the information including a plurality of attributes regarding the executable; and

deriving a signature for a combined set of attributes including attributes from each of the executables.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising storing the signature in an XML file associated with the application or service.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising storing the information in an XML file associated with the application or service.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising storing the signature in the XML file.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein extracting the information comprises accessing an installer component of the computer.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the information is stored in connection with the installer component.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein extracting the information comprises accessing more than one source for the information.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising choosing a best source of the more than one ~~sources~~ source for the information, and utilizing that best source to provide at least some of the information.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising storing information about the sources other than the best source with the information.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein deriving a signature comprises generating a number from the combined set utilizing a cyclic redundancy check.

31-37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously presented) A method of evaluating the status of an application or a service located on a plurality of computers on a network, comprising:

accessing stored information regarding the application or service for each of the plurality of computers, the stored information comprising a signature derived from a subset of attributes of the application or service; and

evaluating the signatures to determine status of the application or service for each of the plurality of computers.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the signature represents version information for the application or service for each of the plurality of computers.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100